

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 1998  
MAG Offices - Saguaro Room  
302 N. First Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Laura Arnold, Councilmember of Tolleson	*Pat Pomeroy, Councilmember of Mesa
*William Arnold, Mayor of Goodyear	Manuel Martinez, Councilmember of Glendale
*Frances Osuna, Mayor of Guadalupe	*Ruth Osuna, Arizona Department of Economic Security
*Xavier Brizar, The Community Forum	*Robert Pettycrew, Councilmember of Scottsdale
Dennis Cahill, Councilmember of Tempe	Sandra Reagan, Vice Mayor of Litchfield Park
Rebecca Coty, Councilmember of Peoria	Joan Shafer, Mayor of Surprise
Mike Evans, Councilmember of Gilbert	*Cody Williams, Councilmember of Phoenix
Ron Gonshak, Glendale Community Council	Rev. Fran Park, Northwest Valley Regional Community Council
Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, Tempe Community Council	*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
*Mary Rose Wilcox, Supervisor, Maricopa County	
*Al Hyde, Area Agency on Aging Marie Lopez Rogers, City of Avondale	

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Karin Bishop, Chair of HSTC/Valley of the Sun United Way  
Rich Marshall, Maricopa County Human Services  
Carol Kratz, MAG  
Suzanne Quigley, MAG

1. Call to Order

At 12:15pm the meeting was called to order by Councilmember Laura Arnold, standing in as Chair for Councilmember Pettycrew.

2. Approval of February 5, 1998 Technical Committee Minutes

The motion by Councilmember Coty, seconded by Ron Gonshak, to approve the minutes of June 18, 1998 was carried unanimously.

3. Comparison of Maricopa County Needs Assessment Information and MAG Human Services Priority Problems

Carol Kratz reviewed the Maricopa County Needs Assessment information and informed the committee that the pertinent data was included in the 1999-2000 problem statements. The Human Services Plan was not published until these numbers were included in the document. Ms. Kratz pointed out the high percentage of people needing dental care in all three target groups of Adults, Children and Families, Elderly, and Persons with Functional Limitations. Councilmember Martinez and Reverend Park asked questions regarding duplicate counts in the “still needed” and “sought unsuccessfully” categories, and whether these two categories could be added to come up with a total number for “overall need.” Ms. Kratz will address these questions with Ken Anderson at Maricopa County.

Councilmember Arnold was curious to know whether there has been an improvement in these numbers since the last needs assessment was taken. Councilmember Evans was also concerned with whether there were duplicate numbers in this data. Councilmember Shafer reported to the Committee that the City of Surprise is conducting its own needs assessment for their region. Reverend Park also announced that the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council has contracted with ASU West to conduct a needs assessment. He will share the results of the study with the Committee when it is complete.

Discussion ensued about the need for information across our target groups. Councilmember Reagan believes that the Maricopa County information is valuable to use as a report card for where to allocate SSBG funds, as well as assist in our prioritization of the problem statements. It is obvious from the data we have here today that dental, transportation and information and referral all pop out as across all three target groups. Therefore, this where our attention should be focused. Ms. Kratz showed the Committee that the needs assessment data was displayed into the problem statement document to assist the Technical Committee members in their analysis.

After phoning Mr. Anderson during the meeting, Ms. Kratz reported that these are duplicated numbers. Mr. Anderson will attempt to get us an unduplicated count by the next meeting.

4. Developmental Disabilities

Suzanne Quigley provided a report on the current need and trend areas for the Persons with Developmental Disabilities target group. MAG staff met with over 10 representatives of providers and advocates this past August at the request of the HSTC/HSCC members who had expressed concern with their lack of hard information about the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. About 17 different need areas were identified through these interviews. The highest priority need areas were dental care, transportation, increased programming for adults living at home who are not ALTCS-eligible (such as socialization & recreation, day treatment and training and employment support services), child care, and efforts to help families/consumers have more choice and control of their funds.

Ms. Quigley also informed the committee about the changing trends in service provision for persons with developmental disabilities. The system has evolved over the last twenty years from a very closed system with state-run facilities being the only option for many families/consumers to a more open system where community-based settings were the norm. When the Family Support Bill passed in early 1990's, families and consumers began to have more service options, such as in-home living with home-based services, companion living settings, group homes, and employment with supports. Today, there is a movement among advocate groups and consumers to create a systems change which will offer greater choice, control, and flexibility for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families over the services they utilize and the management of their benefits.

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee are in the process of using this new information as a guide in revising the current problem statements for this target group. Staff has added *potential* new problem statements based upon the information gathered for the Subcommittee to consider as well. To further educate the Committee on this target group, a panel presentation is being planned for the next meeting from DES's Division on Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Quigley was hopeful that this new information and the panel discussion will provide a clearer picture of this target group and their social service needs, increasing the confidence of the Subcommittee in prioritizing problems and making funding recommendations.

#### 4. Funding Levels for SSBG Funds and Funding Recommendations by Target Group

Ms. Kratz updated the Committee on the "continuing saga" of potential fluctuations in SSBG funding. At the present time the funding level is set at \$2.38 billion. If this level is appropriated, Arizona will not suffer cuts in these funds, but will in fact, receive a small additional amount of about \$100,000. The Technical Committee made funding recommendations for the \$100,000 at their last meeting. These funding amounts recommendations will be presented at public hearings scheduled in September and October. However, on September 4, the Senate Appropriations Committee recommended a cut in SSBG funding to \$1.9 billion. If this occurs, we will have to cut approximately \$1 million from our allocations. Reverend Park asked whether there is a deadline for Congress to act on these proposed cuts. Ms. Kratz thinks the end of October, but since continuing resolutions are utilized so much, no definite date can be determined. Ms. Kratz recommended to the Committee that we move forward, go to public hearing on the recommended funding levels for the two different amounts and then react, if and when, the funding cuts are approved. There was consensus among the Committee that this was the only logical course of action.

Ms Kratz reported on the changes in problem statements and funding levels recommended by the HSTC Target Group Subcommittees decided upon at their September 3 meeting. The Adults, Children & Family Subcommittee added dental care to problem statement number #1, made a small modification to problem statement # 9, and added problem statement #13 to reflect the need for access to information and referral services to individuals and families in crisis. This target group will make decisions on the \$49,900 during the October meeting.

The Elderly Subcommittee did not make any language or priority number changes to the problem statements. The additional \$21,400 was designated proportionately to Adult Day Care/Adult Health Care, Transportation and Supportive Intervention/Guidance Counseling services under problem statements number 2, 3 and 5 respectively.

Since numerous changes were needed to be made to the Persons with Developmental Disabilities problem statements, the Subcommittee decided to address these changes at the next meeting. Staff will prepare a list of the suggested changes in language and priority for the Subcommittee to review prior to the October meeting. The Subcommittee decided to allocate the additional \$14,400 in an even split for Socialization and Recreation and Transportation services under problem statement #3. For the Persons with Disabilities, no changes to language or priority were recommended. The additional \$14,300 was proportionally allocated to non-elderly Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health Care, Adaptive Aids and Devices, and Interpreter Services under problem statement number one.

Councilmember Evans asked Ms. Bishop why the Adults, Families & Children Subcommittee elected to add dental care to problem statement number one. Ms. Bishop responded that the Subcommittee thought it was important to take dental care out of the umbrella of “health care” in order to emphasize its importance. Councilmember Evans asked what the Coordinating Committee could do to address this “screaming need of dental care” among all the target groups. Ms. Kratz suggested a Resolution to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to raise the level of awareness and discussion that this is a health issue that many social service providers are concerned about. Dental care is really a Department of Health issue, yet it seems it is not on their priority list. SSBG dollars have not traditionally been designated for dental services. AHCCCS covers extractions but not preventative care such as routine cleanings.

Rich Marshall reported that Head Start is required to provide medical and dental to their participants who are almost all AHCCCS eligible. The problem is that there is not enough AHCCCS dentists in the areas where low-income people live and many have up to eight months on waiting list. Mr. Marshall suggested pressuring AHCCCS to recruit more dentists to participate in the plan.

Councilmember Coty informed the Committee that the Tobacco Tax dollars are being used to pay for some youth dental care programs. St. Joseph Hospital is also providing dental services on a sliding scale to adults - using federal dollars. However, if the patient is on AHCCCS they are not eligible for the hospital program.

Councilmember Reagan believes that Oral Health is using tobacco tax to fund dental care and also the Flinn Foundation has been providing small grants for dental care directed to small children. Discussion ensued about the status of a Valley-wide Dental Society, retired dentists, and organizations such as Desert Mission, Mission of Mercy, and Adelante who may be providing dental care to low-income families. Ms. Kratz offered to investigate the dental issue, specifically the organizations above mentioned, as well as the situation with AHCCCS and the Tobacco Tax dollars. This information will be presented at the next meeting.

At this point in the meeting, a motion, offered by Councilmember Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Evans, to accept the funding recommendations and changes to the problem statements made by the Technical Committee was approved and carried unanimously.

6. Public Hearing on 1999-2000 Plan

Ms. Kratz explained that since the funding is so uncertain this year, staff has scheduled hearings which “piggy-back” upon existing human services meetings occurring in September and October. Ms. Kratz thanked Reverend Park and the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council for including a MAG Public Hearing on their agenda during their Fall meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the schedule of the hearings and other venues for additional hearings. Karin Bishop clarified a question by Mike Evans about the far east valley cities involvement in the East Valley Resource Coalition. This Coalition is made up of organizations that serve not just Tempe and Mesa, but also Gilbert and Queen Creek as well. Ms. Bishop also offered to send MAG staff a listing of the Healthy Community monthly meetings as a possibility of other sites for the hearings.

Councilmember Evans thought that the process that Rio Salado used by having Cox televise their meetings live and having neighboring municipalities, school boards, and other groups tune into the meeting via the cable connection was an excellent way to reach a larger number of people. This was discussed as a possibility for future public hearings. Councilmember Lopez-Roger expressed concern that the Southwest cities were not represented in the five areas that the hearings will be held and suggested possibly holding a hearing at the Southwest Regional Council monthly meeting.

Councilmember Shafer affirmed the “piggybacking” method and the schedule for September and October given the funding uncertainties right now. A motion to approve the public hearings as scheduled was offered by Councilmember Shafer, seconded by Councilmember Martinez and carried unanimously by the Committee.

7. Domestic Violence Regional Plan

Ms. Kratz provided a brief overview of the status of the MAG Domestic Violence Subcommittee and its work on legislative initiatives over the last month. The Subcommittee researched and developed a list of legislative priorities, one of which has been put in resolution form and included in the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Resolution process. Many of the cities and towns in Maricopa County will have signed-off in support of the resolution prior to the October 21 League Conference where the resolutions will be presented. Avondale, Buckeye, Tolleson, and Gilbert have signed-on to the resolution. The resolution is generic and does not specify anyone piece of legislation. This was done purposefully in order to not limit the number or type of pieces of legislation that could be brought to the legislature in the upcoming session. It was also assumed that the generic version would garner the most support from all the cities and towns.

Ms. Kratz reviewed some of the issues contained in the legislative initiative summary developed by the Subcommittee such as: funding for supervised probation; development of a central registry to track arrests, convictions, and to enter information in the National Crime Information Center; judicial discretion regarding counseling for offenders after two offenses; mandatory training for judges and court personnel, modeling mandatory penalties similar to the DUI system, bonding requirements, and increased funds for the operational costs related to an increase in shelter capacity.

The next Subcommittee meeting will begin the planning phase of developing the regional plan. Mary Utley, Executive Director of the Tucson Domestic Violence Commission will be presenting a model that Pima and Yavapai Counties have used to study the issue and to develop regional strategies to respond to domestic violence. Another activity the Subcommittee is engaged in right now is the development of a model Safety Plan that will be distributed during October, Domestic Violence Month. About 100,000 copies will be made for distribution in the local CAP agencies, food banks, Head Start offices, TANF/Food Stamp/WIC offices, County Emergency Rooms, health clinics, and other sites. Committee members suggested it be printed in Spanish and other distribution points mentioned were: libraries, Section 8 Housing, City Halls, and the information sections in supermarkets.

Ms. Kratz asked the Committee for the names of any printers they know who do pro bono work. Bashas and Maricopa County prisons were suggested by Councilmember Evans and Vice Mayor Reagan respectively. Councilmember Arnold discussed the impact of the Area Agency on Aging's new video called "The Dance" which tells the story of elder domestic violence. Ms. Kratz suggested showing the video after the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

#### 8. Welfare to Work Transportation

Ms. Kratz discussed the status of the Welfare to Work Transportation Group that has been meeting to prepare a regional application for TEA-21, Access to Jobs & Reverse Commute funds administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. In the first year of funding, approximately \$50 million will be spent on projects which increase the transportation options available to connect welfare recipients and low-income individuals to employment opportunities and support services. The TEA-21 legislation designates the local Metropolitan Planning Organization as the entity responsible to select the applicants from regions with populations over 200,000 and to ensure that projects are developed within a human services planning process. Over the last two month, staff has convened a Work Group made-up of transportation providers, agencies who work with welfare recipients, and interested cities and towns. The Work Group has conducted preliminary origin-destination analysis to identify the job access transportation needs across the Valley. Maps have been created which detail where the highest concentration of low-income people and welfare recipients live, the major employment pockets, and the transit options available. This information will be very helpful to include in a regional application because it identifies the locations where spatial mismatches exist between where the jobs are and where the people needing employment live.

Mr. Gonshak emphasized the need to bring employers to the table in these discussions. Many employers have van fleets that could be used to shuttle employees to their sites. The availability of jobs is not the issue, it is getting the people to and from work. Many of the welfare to work individuals are offered three to five different jobs but it is just impossible for them to get out to the major corporations like MicroAge and Intel. We need to encourage more employers to participate in the ADOPT program with RPTA. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis remarked that many employers do offer transportation options to their employees through RPTA's Trip Reduction Program.

Ms. Kratz also informed the Committee about potential TEA-21 *noncompetitive* dollars for welfare to work transportation projects which may become available through the MAG Transportation Review Committee process (TRC). We need to consider how to position welfare to work type projects as a priority area in the TRC process. In order for these types of projects to be funded using noncompetitive TEA-21 dollars, it must first become a policy decision by the TRC, a committee who has traditionally funded highways, buses, and streets. Special transportation populations and projects to serve their needs is a new federal priority.

Vice Mayor Reagan discussed the role of ADOT and MCDOT in the welfare to work transportation arena. These organizations are looking to secure TEA-21 funds as way develop joint light rail projects along Buckeye and Grand Avenue. How ironic is it that the Valley can successfully plan for people to get to sporting events and entertainment, but not to jobs that will help them and their families remain self-sufficient?

Rich Marshall reminded the Committee about HB 2565 which allocated \$4.5 million over the next year for public transit. The money will flow from ADOT to RPTA who will distribute grants to cities and towns who apply for these funds. Membership in RPTA is not a requirement. There is a 1:1 match required, but if your city or town already contributes to the County's Special Transportation Services (STS) program this will be counted as matching funds. Maricopa County will be putting over \$300,000 into expanding STS, focusing on welfare-to-work clients. In addition, Mr. Marshall emphasized the need to address second and third shift hours with the expanded hours of service. The County will be looking to the cities and towns who already contribute to STS to apply for these funds as well. This will ensure that the dollars get spent on local needs, rather than going to northern or southern parts of the state.

Maureen Mageau-DeCindis pointed out that the TEA-21 monies are important because they target not only welfare recipients but the working poor, families at 150% of poverty. This is critical because more people will be impacted and therefore, more families will be able to maintain self-sufficiency after employment is obtained. She also mentioned the lottery vote and how this could impact the funding for all the express routes in the Valley. In addition, Ms. Mageau-DeCindis informed the Committee about a program in Detroit that has radio spots informing the public of recent job openings and the bus line that these employment sites are located.

9. Call to the Public

There were no audience members who wished to address the Committee.

10. Announcements

Councilmember Martinez expressed his disappointment that the Governor did not appoint a west side representative to the Students First Committee. Mayor Shafer expressed the same sentiment and thought it unfortunate that actions such as these serve to split the Valley on important issues. Discussion ensued about the rapid growth of school enrollment in cities such as Gilbert, Surprise, and Glendale.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.